

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-11 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 XMB-04

SAM-01 OMB-01 /119 W

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P R 111011Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7715

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E. O. L1652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LY, FR, SS, XF, LE

SUBJECT: QADHAFI INTERVIEW IN LE MONDE

1. TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER

JALLUD'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO PARIS, LE MONDE OF FEBRUARY

1L GIVES FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO INTERVIEW OF CORRES-

PONDENT ERIC ROULEAU WITH PRESIDENT QADHAFI. SUBSTANCE

OF LIBYAN PRESIDENT'S REPLIES TO OFTEN PROVOCATIVE

QUESTIONS FOLLOWS.

2. FRANCO-LIBYAN RELATIONS: FRANCE IS ACTING LIKE AN

ARMS MERCHANT. FRANKLY, IT DISAPPOINTS US. WE WERE

THE FIRST TO BUY FRENCH ARMS AND OTHER ARABS HAVE FOL-

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LOWED OUR EXAMPLE BUT SORDID INTERESTS SHOULD NOT OUT-

WEIGH PRINCIPLES, AS DE GAULLE UNDERSTOOD. BY IMPOSING AN ARMS EMBARGO ON THE NEAR EAST, HE PLACED PEOPLE'S LIVES ABOVE PROFITS. THE PRESENT FRENCH GOVERNMENT SELLS PLANES TO ONE COUNTRY, WHICH I WILL NOT NAME, AND TO ANOTHER, MISSILES WHICH WOULD BE USED TO SHOOT THEM DOWN. THIS MERCANTILISM IS HARMFUL TO FRANCE IN THE ARAB WORLD. FRANCE IS NOW LESS INDEPENDENT VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES THAN UNDER DE GAULLE. FOR EXAMPLE GISCARD SENT TELEGRAMS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE SIGNATORIES OF THE SINAI ACCORD LAST SEPTEMBER EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW THIS ACCORD HAD BEEN IMPOSED BY THE AMERICANS, AND THAT IT DID NOT CORRESPOND TO THE WISHES AND ASPIRATIONS OF A GOOD PART OF THE ARAB WORLD. FRANCE THUS TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERVENING IN AN INTER-ARAB QUARREL.

ON THE OTHER HAND THE FRENCH VOTE ON THE MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL LAST MONTH DEMONSTRATED GISCARD'S DESIRE TO SHOW HIS INDEPENDENCE VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES AND ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES.

FRANCE HAS HAD GREATER BENEFITS THAN LIBYA IN BILATERAL RELATIONS DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS. WE WANT BALANCED RELATIONS, ABOVE ALL IN THE POLITICAL REALM. PM JALLUD WILL TRY TO ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR OUR COOPERATION IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

3. SAHARA: GISCARD'S INTERVIEW ON THE SAHARA IN THE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR WAS "REASONABLE", EXCEPT HIS OPPOSITION TO THE CREATION OF MICRO-STATES. WE, TOO, ARE FAVORABLE TO THE CREATION OF LARGE GROUPINGS AND IN JUNE 1975 I EVEN PUT MY ARMIES AT MOROCCO'S DISPOSITION TO LIBERATE THE SAHARA. MOROCCO NOT ONLY ABSTAINED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE LIBERATION WAR LED BY POLISARIO BUT IT ALSO ENGAGED AFTER THE MADRID ACCORD IN AN ATROCIOUS REPRESSION AGAINST THE SAHARIANS. THE ESSENTIAL POINT OF THE PROBLEM IS NOT WHETHER AN INDEPENDENT SAHARIAN STATE IS DESIRED OR NOT. WE ARE GUIDED BY TWO PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS: TO END THE CURRENT GENOCIDE AND TO GIVE VOICE TO THE POLISARIO

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AND THE SAHARIANS, WHO WERE NOT CONSULTED AND WHO, I LEARNED BELATEDLY, ARE NOT FAVORABLE TO INCORPORATION INTO MOROCCO. I SHALL NOT MEDIATE BECAUSE THE DISPUTE HAS REACHED THE POINT OF NO RETURN AND ONLY ARMS CAN SETTLE THE PROBLEM. THE EVENTUALITY OF AN ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN WAR CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. WE ARE ON THE SIDE OF RIGHT. AS THE HOLY KORAN RECOMMENDS, WE WILL UPHOLD THE VICTIMS AND HELP THE AGGRESSORS TO RETURN TO THE

RIGHT PATH. BOTH SIDES ARE OUR BROTHERS.

PRAISING ALGERIA'S NEW POLITICAL LINE, FAVORABLE TO
ARAB UNITY, QADHAFI SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY IF THE
PRESENT GENERATION SHOWED ITSELF CAPABLE OF PREPARING
THE UNIFICATION OF THE ARAB WORLD FOR THE NEXT
GENERATION.

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4. EGYPT: RELATIONS BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND CAIRO ARE
NORMAL. EGYPT IS TOO OCCUPIED BY ITS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS,

INFLATION AND FAMINE; IT IS STILL TOO ABSORBED BY ITS DISAGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES TO LAY THE BLAME ON LIBYA.

5. OPEC KIDNAPPING: QADHAFI DENIED ANY CONNECTION. LIBYA IS AGAINST EVERY FORM OF TERRORISM AND IF ISRAELI PROPAGANDA TRIES TO IMPLICATE IT IN SUCH AN AFFAIR, IT IS ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCREDITING LIBYAN AID TO THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE.
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6. PLO: ASKED WHAT HIS ATTITUDE WOULD BE IF THE FEDAYEEN AGREED TO A SETTLEMENT FAVORING THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, QADHAFI SAID THE RESISTANCE WAS NOT THE MONOPOLY OF THE PLO. THE FIGHT IS LED BY VARIOUS GROUPS WHO DIS-AGREE ON MEANS AND OBJECTIVES AND NONE OF THEM REPRESENTS THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS A WHOLE. WHY ASK ME SUCH QUESTIONS? WE ARE MAGHREBIANS AND FOR A LONG TIME HAVE TAKEN LESS INTEREST IN THE NEAR EAST.

7. LEBANON: THE ACCUSATION (THAT WE INTERFERE IN LEBANON) IS UNJUST. WE HAVE NOT THE MEANS TO SEND ARMS TO LEBANON. THOSE WHO ACCUSE US ARE TRYING TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE FLOW OF AMERICAN DOLLARS, FROM THE INTRIGUE OF AMERICANS AND OF THEIR LOCAL AGENTS SEEKING TO LIQUIDATE THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND PATRIOTIC FORCES IN LEBANON. ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY, ARE WORTHY OF OUR FRIENDSHIP. IT IS THE SAME IN OMAN WHERE WE ARE ON THE SIDE OF THE DHOFAR INSURGENTS WHO RESIST FOREIGN AGGRESSION. ABOVE ALL I DEFEND THE ARAB NATION WHICH FIGHTS FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY.

SYRIA HAS NOT IMPOSED ITS WILL ON LEBANON. THE CEASE FIRE WILL NOT LAST BECAUSE THE COMPROMISE HAS RESOLVED NOTHING. TO RE-ESTABLISH CIVIL PEACE DEFINITELY, RADICAL SOLUTIONS ARE NECESSARY. THE TRIBAL AND CONFESSIONAL SYSTEM WHICH IS THE ORIGIN OF LEBANON'S ILLS MUST BE DESTROYED. A BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS IS ONLY A FRAUD. RELIGION MUST BE EXCLUDED FROM THE AFFAIRS OF STATE. IN LEBANON, THE POLITICAL SYSTEM COULD AND MUST BE INSPIRED BY THE TEACHINGS OF THE MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS, EACH GROUP PRESERVING, HOWEVER, ITS OWN, PERSONAL STATUTE. THIS IS NOT CONTRARY TO THE ABOLITION OF CONFESSIONALISM IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE.
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